
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 441

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC OR MANUAL CHECK-IN OF VOTERS, THE PROCESS OF VOTING AND ELECTRONIC FILING OF OFFICIAL CHECKLISTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes official checkers to use a secretary of the state-approved electronic device to check in electors at the polls. The secretary, in consultation and coordination with UConn, must conduct a review of electronic devices that could assist checkers and, by September 1, 2015, compose a list of those she approves for municipal use. She (1) must make the list available to municipalities in a manner she chooses and (2) may add or remove a device from the list as she determines necessary. By law, official checkers are responsible for verifying electors' identification and checking their names off the official registry list before they are permitted to vote.

The bill requires (1) official checkers to return the electronic device to the registrars after the polls close and (2) the registrars to print and sign the electronic registry list. The registrars must deposit the printed electronic registry list in the town clerk's office the following day, just as existing law requires them to do with the printed registry lists they currently use. Official checkers must use the printed copy of the voter registry list to check in voters if the electronic device becomes inoperable.

By law, official checkers must provide the moderator with a certificate immediately after the polls close that states the (1) number of names on the registry or enrollment list and (2) number checked as having voted in that election or primary. The bill eliminates a requirement that they (1) provide this certificate in duplicate and (2) place a copy of the certificate with the moderator's return and voted ballots from the polling place. It retains the requirement to file the

certificate with the town clerk by the next day.

The bill also eliminates a provision under which the two electors next in line to vote may be admitted into the polling area to receive a ballot. It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/24/2014)